

#### **IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A laminating apparatus for laminating a solar battery panel, comprising:

- an upper chamber and a lower chamber which are partitioned by a diaphragm;
- a heater board provided in said lower chamber; and
- a diaphragm which partitions said upper chamber and said lower chamber, said diaphragm being capable of freely expanding for pressurizing the object to be laminated which is mounted on said heater board,

wherein said diaphragm is constituted of a single layer of butyl rubber,

wherein the solar battery panel has a structure with strings sandwiched with a filler between a reinforcing material and a cover glass, ~~and~~

wherein the filler is ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) resin, and

wherein the laminating apparatus is tightly closed, an inside of the upper chamber and an inside of the lower chamber are evacuated thereafter, and atmospheric pressure is introduced into the upper chamber to expand the diaphragm downward, thereby sandwiching and pressurizing the solar battery panel between an upper surface of the heater board and the diaphragm.

2. (Original) The laminating apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the composition of said butyl rubber comprises 100 to 0 parts by weight of halogenated butyl, 0 to 100 parts by weight of regular butyl, 1 to 5 parts by weight of magnesium oxide, 5 to 100 parts by weight of carbon black, 0 to 20 parts by weight of paraffin oil, 1 to 5 parts by weight of zinc oxide, 1 to 20 parts by weight of resin vulcanizing agent, and 0 to 10 parts by weight of processing aid.

3. (Previously Presented) The laminating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a holding means for holding the object to be laminated which is mounted on said heater board in a state that the object to be laminated is separated upward from an upper surface of said heater board while the object to be laminated is carried in.

4. (Original) The laminating apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said holding means is configured to hold the object to be laminated in a state that the object to be laminated is separated upward from the upper surface of said heater board also while the object to be laminated is carried out.

5. (Canceled)